

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for the production of iohexol comprising alkylating 5-(acetamido)-N,N'-bis(2,3-dihydroxypropyl)-2,4,6-triiodoisophthalamide with a 2,3-dihydroxypropylating agent in the presence of a base and of a solvent which solvent comprises a C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol.
2. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ~~C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol~~ **glycol** is 1-methoxy-2-propanol.
3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 further comprising one or more co-solvents.
4. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said co-solvents comprise C₁-C₄ alkanols, ~~preferably methanol,~~ and/or water.
5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said solvent comprises 1-methoxy-2-propanol and 0-40 volume% of methanol.
6. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein said solvent comprises 1-methoxy-2-propanol and 0-20 volume% of water.
7. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solvent is used in an amount of 0.5 to 5 ml, ~~more preferred 0.7 to 3 ml and most preferred 0.9 to 1.0 ml~~ per gram 5-Acetamide.

8. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 further comprising purifying the crude iohexol obtained from the N-alkylation reaction using a solvent comprising a C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol.
9. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol is the same C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol as used in the N-alkylation process.
10. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein said purification the C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol is 1-methoxy-2-propanol.
11. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein said purification the solvent further comprises one or more co-solvents.
12. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 11 wherein said co-solvent comprises C₁-C₄ alkanols ~~and preferably methanol~~.
13. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 9 wherein the amount of said solvent is adjusted to 1.5 to 8 ml of the C₁-C₅-monoalkylether of a C₃-C₁₀ alkylene-glycol /g iohexol, to 0-1 ml C₁-C₄ alkanol/g iohexol, and to 0.001-0.3 ml water/g iohexol.
14. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the purification is performed by crystallising the iohexol from said solvent and then separating the crystals from said solvent.
15. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the salt content in the reaction mixture of the alkylation reaction is reduced prior to the purification step.

16. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the water content in the reaction mixture of the alkylation reaction is reduced prior to the crystallisation step preferably by azeotropic distillation.
17. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the crystalline iohexol is washed with isopropanol and dried.
18. (New claim) A process as claimed in claim 4 wherein said C₁-C₄ alkanol is methanol.
19. (New claim) A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein said solvent is used in an amount of 0.7 to 3 ml per gram 5-Acetamide.
20. (New claim) A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein said solvent is used in an amount of 0.9 to 1.0 ml per gram 5-Acetamide.
21. (New claim) A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein said co-solvent comprises methanol.